

**PUBLIC HEARING of the Town Council held Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in Town Council Chambers, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.**

**PRESENT: Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns was excused**

**Relative to discussing the Municipal Budget**

**NOTE: The public hearing was duly advertised in the local section of the Woonsocket Call on May 6, May 9 and May 11, 2011.**

**Council President Pro Tem Wallace F. Lees called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and welcomed Walter J. Kane, Assistant Town Solicitor to the hearing.**

#### **1. Comments from the Budget Board**

**Mark Brizard, Vice Chairman of the Burrillville Budget Board, discussed hours dedicated to developing the Budget Board's proposal, commented on the on-going economic difficulties, and noted that the recommendation was based upon a worst-case scenario. Mr. Brizard noted that the Manager's budget was based on more current information. Mr. Brizard commented on the necessity of**

addressing healthcare costs, changing revenue sources, sharing costs and duties, and special appropriations. Mr. Brizard thanked the administration and school employees.

## **2. Comments from Michael C. Wood, Town Manager**

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, recognized the efforts of the Budget Board, commented on the advantages of having their input, and thanked them for their work. Mr. Wood noted that the state budget was yet to be set and suggested that the Town budget might not be complete until the end of June, as allowed by charter. Mr. Wood reviewed the public hearing procedure.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, provided an overview of the budget proposal, as described in his budget message, a copy of which is on file with the record of the hearing. Mr. Wood summarized the proposal, reviewing the 4.25% cap. Mr. Wood commented on the impact of the end of the TransCanada – Ocean State Power payment in lieu of taxes program. He reviewed line item details of the proposed budget. Mr. Wood voiced his concerns related to expected state budget decisions and other legislative matters.

## **3. Public Comment: None**

Councilor David J. Place listed items that he said he and two other members of the Town Council had identified as possible budget reductions and asked for the administration's input on the impact

those changes might have on services. Among the items discussed were: level funding the Manager's and Town Clerk's department budgets, relocation of the Recreation Department, reductions to the proposed appropriation for the library and possible changes to custodial services at the library and police station. There was discussion of the proposed decreases in the budget for the Department of Public Works and the potential impact to town wide services if a mechanic's position remained vacant.

Kevin Cleary, 31 Cooper Hill Road, acknowledged the overall fiscal situation, commented on the changes in property taxes through the years, and discussed the State's reduction in motor vehicle exemption. Mr. Cleary presented the Town Council with a proposed amendment to the budget resolution, as follows:

The Burrillville Town Council hereby revises the proposed FY12 budget to maintain a motor vehicle exemption of \$2,500 or some amount greater than the \$1,000 proposed as an exemption, and adjust the tax structure accordingly.

Because the proceedings were for public hearing, no motion or second was made. On the advice of the Solicitor, the proposed amendment is reflected in the record of the hearing.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, commented on the 2011 changes in motor vehicle exemptions and the impact on services if the final

**budget included a markedly higher tax exemption than proposed.**

#### **4. Town Council deliberation**

**Council President Pro Tem Wallace F. Lees thanked staff for participating in the public hearing, noted that the Department Heads had not received a raise in four years, and commented on the good job done by employees.**

**On a question from Councilor Margaret L. Dudley, there was discussion of the savings that could be realized by imposing a gasoline surcharge on the agencies that obtain gasoline at the town garage.**

**There was discussion regarding the amount of budget reduction required to lower the tax rate. The impact of the management of changes in the TransCanada payment in lieu of taxes was reviewed.**

**The FY2012 operating budgets for Burrillville Extended Care Division and Spring Lake Beach were remarked. There were no significant budget increases and both programs are funded from fees. The programs are self-sufficient.**

**VOTED to close the public hearing.**

**Motion by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. Seconded by Councilor**

**Margaret L. Dudley. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson. Council President Nancy F. Binns was excused.**

**VOTED to adjourn at 7:59 P.M.**

**Motion by Councilor Margaret L. Dudley. Seconded by Councilor Edward J. Blanchard. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson. Council President Nancy F. Binns was excused.**

**The hearing was recorded.**

**Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk**